

May 31, 2005

The Honorable Mark Sigfrinius
Mayor, City of Goldendale
P.O. Box 69
Goldendale, WA 98620

Dear Mayor Sigfrinius:

Thank you for your public comment letter received on December 17, 2004, regarding Washington State's Water Quality Assessment for 2002/2004. The department received over 45 comment letters during this last review process and is appreciative of the time you took to review and comment on this assessment. We realize that there is an extensive amount of information in the Water Quality Assessment. The scrutiny given by you and other public reviewers has resulted in many changes and corrections that improved the accurateness of the final submittal to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Water Quality Assessment is being submitted to EPA as an "integrated report" to meet the Clean Water Act requirements of sections 305(b) and 303(d). EPA will only take approval action on Category 5 of the assessment, which represents the state's 303(d) list. The Water Quality Assessment can be viewed at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/index.html>.

We appreciate your updated information regarding the Category 4C listings for the Little Klickitat River (6202 and 6203) and Bloodgood Creek (6200). This updated information indicates that changes in instream flow have occurred that improve the flow and related habitat of these water bodies. I consulted with field staff in our Central Regional Office in Yakima who confirmed that the city of Goldendale has made improvements to its water system to increase instream-flows. Based on the information provided, and your inclusion of the flow summary data, these listings are being moved from Category 5 to Category 2. The basis information has also been changed to reflect the newer information.

Thank you again for taking the time to provide comments to Ecology. If you have questions regarding the above responses, or would like further clarification, please feel free to call me at 360-407-6414.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Braley".

Susan Braley
Unit Supervisor
Watershed Management Section